

Max's Market Maths: Subtraction Challenge

Learning objective: To subtract whole numbers with more than four digits and solve multi-step subtraction problems in context.

Read the scenario about Max the monkey and his trip to the local community market. Use column subtraction to solve the problems, making sure to align your place value columns correctly. Show your working out for every question.

Max the monkey is helping the community garden organise their annual harvest sale. The garden has a total of 52,480 seeds to sell in small packets. On Saturday morning, the volunteers sold 18,945 packets. By the end of the day, they had also given away 2,750 packets to local schools. Max wants to know exactly how many packets are left for Sunday. Additionally, the garden stall earned £12,500 in sales, but they had to spend £4,375 on new compost and tools. Max needs to calculate the remaining profit.

Word bank: difference · column subtraction · regrouping · exchange · remainder · place value

1. How many seed packets remained after the Saturday morning sales? (Show your calculation: $52,480 - 18,945$) (2 marks)

2. After giving away 2,750 packets to schools, how many packets are left for Sunday? (Use your answer from the previous question) (2 marks)

3. What is the difference between the total sales (£12,500) and the costs (£4,375)? (2 marks)

4. A rival stall had 40,000 items but sold 21,682 of them. How many items do they have left? (2 marks)

5. Explain why it is important to regroup (or 'borrow') from the next column when subtracting a larger digit from a smaller one. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Max the monkey standing at a colourful market stall, holding a clipboard and counting stacks of seed packets.



Extension challenge: Imagine the garden stall set a target to sell 60,000 packets in total. If they have already sold 35,720, how many more do they need to sell to reach their goal? Write your own word problem using this calculation.